

A woman with purple hair, wearing a white blouse and dark pants, is shown from the side and back. She is holding a large, black rocket with a yellow band and a white star at the base. The background is a warm, golden-yellow gradient.

# **Southeast Asian American Studies Conference**

# **Community Engagement,**

# **Research, & Policy in Action**

**July 27-29, 2017**

**University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Center for Asian American Studies**

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Dear 2017 Southeast Asian American Studies Conference Participants,

We are excited to have you participate in the fifth convening of the Southeast Asian American Studies Conference. A lot has happened since the first Southeast Asians in the Diaspora conference in 2005 at UC Riverside. In the past twelve years, we have seen progress within our community as well as causes for concern. There is a great need to work with Southeast Asian American communities to highlight our issues, share our collective stories, and advocate for change.

This year's theme of Community Engagement, Research, and Policy in Action is seen throughout the program. You will notice a jam-packed schedule that addresses educational, health, immigration, and community development issues. While we highlight the Southeast Asian American communities in New England, we have community organizers, artists, and scholars flying across the country from Honolulu, HI, to Oakland, CA, Minneapolis, MN, and Charlotte, NC, to join us here.

This year's planning committee would like to acknowledge all the scholars, students, artists, policymakers, service providers, and community members who are about to share their collective knowledge, skills, and artistry with you. We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue, sharing of best practices, and continued collaboration. We will end on Saturday midday in order to give you all time to enjoy the Lowell Folk Festival and the New England area.

We also want to thank our local committee members, volunteers, and sponsors who helped put together this wonderful conference.

Enjoy your time here.

Sincerely,

Phitsamay S. Uy, Sue J. Kim, & Ivy K. Ho  
On Behalf of the Conference Planning Committee

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## Program At A Glance

### Thursday, July 27

8:45 AM Plenary I: Bridging Policy & Research  
10:45 AM Concurrent Session A  
12:15 PM Lunch  
1:30 PM Concurrent Session B  
3:15 PM Concurrent Session C  
5:00 PM Reception  
6:00 PM Dinner  
7:30 PM Featured Performance: Flying Orb Productions

### Friday, July 28

9:00 AM Concurrent Session D  
10:45 AM Plenary II: Southeast Asians in New England  
12:30 PM Lunch  
1:30 PM Concurrent Session E  
3:15 PM Featured Performance: TeAda Productions  
Featured Speaker: Sophal Ear  
5:00 PM Cambodia Town Tour  
6:00 PM Banquet @ Pailin City  
8:00 PM Poetry Reading @ Pailin City

### Saturday, July 29

9:00 AM Community Workshops  
12:00 PM Lunch  
1:00 PM Closing Remarks

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## Film Showcase Schedule

All films in O'Leary 222 unless otherwise indicated.

### THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2017

Session A: 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (3 films in one session)  
Burmese Refugee  
Phetmixay Means Fighter  
Immigrant Stories

Session B: 1:30-3 p.m.  
Vientiane in Love

Session C: 3:15-4:45 p.m.  
Lost Child: Sayon's Journey

### FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2017

Session D: 9-10:30 a.m.  
Better Places: Hmong of Rhode Island A Generation Later

Session E: 1:30–3 p.m. (2 concurrent films)  
Bridging The Gap Of Dreams [O'Leary 478]

The End / Beginning: Cambodia\*  
\*Community Special Selection

**Film Showcase Committee Chair:** S. Steve Arounsack

**Film Showcase Committee:**

Mr. Luis Alcazar, Independent Filmmaker & Founder of VideoVets  
(videovets.net)

Dr. Steve Rousso-Schindler, CSU Long Beach

Ms. Linda Uch, UMass Boston

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## FEATURED SPEAKERS

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# Acknowledgements

### Conference Coordinators

Phitsamay S. Uy, Education & Incoming CAAS Co-Director  
Sue J. Kim, English & CAAS Co-Director  
Ivy K. Ho, Psychology & CAAS Co-Director

### Conference Assistants

Chrisna Khuon, UMass Lowell  
Chummeng Soun, UMass Lowell & Angkor Dance Troupe

### Center for Asian American Studies Conference Committee

Michael Tith, Office of University Advancement  
Leland Ackerson, Public Health  
George Chigas, Asian Studies  
Adrian Cruz, Sociology  
Khanh T. Dinh, Psychology  
Robert Forrant, History  
Ramraj Gautam, Nursing  
Sandra Lim, English  
Minjeong Kim, Education  
Ardeth Thawngmung, Political Science  
Susan Thomson Tripathy, Sociology  
Alan Williams, Music

### Film Showcase Chair

S. Steve Arounsack, California State University, Stanislaus

### Conference Staff

Eden Chorm  
Monika Delfierro  
Molyda Eang  
Emily Em  
Carlos Gabriel  
Christine Kou  
Layheab Ly  
Paktra Lynch  
Vanmey Ma  
Alexandra Mai  
Johnson Mao  
Mai Nagabayashi  
Michelle Nguyen  
Lil Jay Nou  
Sana Phomsouvanh  
Christina Prum  
Chris Romano  
Jenny Tran

### Special Thanks

Jacky LeDoux, English  
Alice da Silva, FAHSS  
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Higgins & Ross Design  
Carolyn Rolfe, Advancement  
Keith Finch & Katharine Webster, University Relations  
Minuteman Press of Lowell  
Lauren Rojas, Kaitlin Donovan, & Thomas Clark, Hospitality & Events

# KATRINA DIZON MARIATEGUE



Katrina Dizon Mariategue currently serves as the Immigration Policy Manager for the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC). In this capacity, she works with community-based organizations and national advocates to uplift the narratives of family and community members directly impacted by mass incarceration, deportation, and criminalization, to congressional leaders and key administrative agencies in Washington, D.C. Previously, Dizon Mariategue worked for six years at the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) — the largest federation of labor unions in the country. In 2011, she was elected to serve as D.C. chapter president of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), the only national Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) union membership organization. In this capacity, she led the chapter's local advocacy campaigns and organizing work around immigrant workers' rights, coordinated civic engagement programs for the 2012 elections, and strengthened local networks through extensive coalition building efforts. She also served on APALA's National Executive Board and co-chaired the organization's Young Leaders Council.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

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### CHANNAPHA KHAMVONGSA



Channapha Khamvongsa is founder and executive director of Legacies of War, an organization that seeks to address the problem of unexploded ordnance in Laos, to provide space for healing the wounds of war, and to create greater hope for a future of peace. The organization uses art, culture, education, and community organizing, especially among the Lao diaspora, to create healing and transformation out of the wreckage of war. Legacies has successfully advocated for an increase in U.S. funding for bomb clearance in Laos, from an annual average of \$2M in 2008 to \$30M in 2016. In September 2016, President Barack Obama acknowledged Khamvongsa's advocacy efforts in Laos, where he became the first U.S. President to visit the country. Khamvongsa has written and spoken widely about the secret war in Laos and its aftermath and has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Democracy Now!*, CNN, ABC, PBS and CBS News. She was most recently featured in an interview with the team of Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown. She previously worked at the Ford Foundation and NEO Philanthropy on immigrant rights, civil society, civic engagement, capacity building, and transformational leadership. She has served on the Seattle Women's Commission, as well as on the boards of the Refugee Women's Alliance and the Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership (CAPAL). She was born in Vientiane, Laos, and came to the U.S. as a refugee at the age of seven. Channapha received her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Public Administration from George Mason University. She received her Master's Degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

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### KHANH DINH



Khanh T. Dinh, Ph.D., is Professor of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Dinh's primary areas of academic interests are in clinical and community psychology. She is particularly interested in the effects of cultural changes and stress on the adaptation of immigrant individuals and families, including both health and mental health outcomes. Her research work has been published in various academic journals, such as *American Journal of Community Psychology*, *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, *Journal of Family Psychology*, *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies*, and *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*. She is recipient of the NIH Health Disparities Service Award and NIMH National Research Service Award. She has served as consultant for the National Institute of Mental Health and Health Resources and Services Administration, and is currently a member of the Editorial Board of the *Asian American Journal of Psychology*.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

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HAI  
PHO



## FEATURED SPEAKERS

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CATHY  
SCHLUND-  
VIALS



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Hai B. Pho, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Lowell. Pho specializes in Southeast Asian politics, Vietnamese history and civilization, international relations, US foreign policy and refugee policy. He is a founding Board Member and Program Coordinator for the Indochinese Refugee Foundation, which played a central role in resettling refugees in Lowell. He has served on the Massachusetts Governor's Advisory Council on Refugees (for former Governor Dukakis) and on the Diversity and Pluralism Taskforce for the University of Massachusetts President's Office. His publications include "The Politics of Refugee Resettlement in Massachusetts" (1991) and "Lowell, Politics, and the Resettlement of Southeast Asian Refugees and Immigrants" (2007).

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Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, Ph.D., is Professor of English and Director of the Asian and Asian American Studies Institute at the University of Connecticut. Her work is rooted in her personal history marked by immigration, migration, and diaspora, as a Cambodian American scholar. Her book, *War, Genocide, and Justice: Cambodian American Memory Work* (University of Minnesota Press, 2012) explores the remembrance work of 1.5-generation Cambodian American cultural producers through film, memoir, and music whose background lies in the narrative of war, genocide, and denied justice in Cambodia. Her numerous publications include "From the Mekong to the Merrimack and Back: The Transnational Terrains of Cambodian American Rap" (2016); "Re-Seeing Cambodia and Recollecting The 'Nam: A Vertiginous Critique of the Military Sublime" (2016); and "'Evincing Cambodia's Genocide: Juridical Belatedness, Historical Indictment, and Rithy Panh's *The Missing Picture*" (2016). She currently serves as the President of the national Association for Asian American Studies.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

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ERIC  
TANG



Eric Tang, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the African and African Diaspora Studies Department and faculty member in the Center for Asian American Studies at the University of Texas, Austin. He also holds a courtesy appointment in the Department of Sociology and serves as a faculty fellow with both the Institute for Urban Policy Research & Analysis and the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. His first book, entitled *Unsettled: Cambodian Refugees in the NYC Hyperghetto* (Temple University Press, 2015), is an ethnographic account of refugee life in some of New York City's most impoverished and socially marginalized neighborhoods. A former community organizer, Tang has published several articles on race and urban social movements, including award-winning writing on post-Katrina New Orleans. His current research focuses on the past and present of racial segregation in Austin, Texas, paying particular attention to the gentrification-driven displacements of the city's longstanding African American residents. He co-authored the report "Outlier: The Case of Austin's Declining African American population," which revealed that Austin was the only major growing city in the United States to experience an absolute numerical decline in African Americans.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

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RICHARD  
CHU



Richard T. Chu, Ph.D., is Five-College Associate Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He is the author of "Chinese and Chinese Mestizos of Manila: Family, Identity, and Culture 1860s–1930s" (2010; 2012) and "Chinese Merchants of Binondo during the Late Nineteenth Century" (2010). Apart from his work on the Chinese diaspora in the Philippines, he has also published a demographic study of the Filipinos/Filipino Americans in Boston/Massachusetts. In Spring 2017, he taught a course on Asian/Pacific/American history with a civic engagement component, and is currently part of a team of UMass Amherst professors writing up a sociological report on the Bhutanese, Filipino, and Vietnamese communities in Springfield and Western Massachusetts. He teaches courses on the Chinese diaspora, Philippines, U.S. empire in the Pacific, and Asian/Pacific/America.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

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PHITSAMAY  
S. UY



## FEATURED SPEAKERS

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SARATH  
SUONG



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Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy, Ed.D., is Assistant Professor in the College of Education at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. Her research focuses on immigrant students, particularly Southeast Asian educational experiences and parent/community engagement. She is a Core Faculty for the Center for Asian American Studies at UMass Lowell, where she will start her tenure as CAAS Co-Director in Fall 2017. She has served on the editorial boards of *Harvard Educational Review*, *Journal of Southeast Asian American Education and Advancement*, and *the Journal of Lao Studies*. Uy has been involved in various community boards of directors including Southeast Asia Resource Action Center Center, Asian American Resource Workshop, Chea Uy Trust Fund, Institute of Asian American Studies at University of Massachusetts Boston, Legacies of War National Steering Committee, and the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund.

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Sarath Suong is a co-founder and Executive Director of Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM). Born in the Thai refugee camp Khao I Dang, Suong and his family fled Cambodia during the civil war and immigrated to his hometown of Revere, Massachusetts. He moved to Providence, Rhode Island, in 1998 to attend Brown University, majoring in Ethnic Studies with a specific focus on Southeast Asian American immigration and resistance. To cope with the violence, pain, and injustices facing Southeast Asians, he became a community organizer, centered around the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

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### SOPHAL EAR



Elected to the Crescenza Valley Town Council in November 2015 to a 3-year term, encompassing more than 20,000 residents in unincorporated Los Angeles County, CA, and currently serving as its Corresponding Secretary, Sophal Ear, Ph.D., is a tenured Associate Professor of Diplomacy & World Affairs at Occidental College in Los Angeles where he lectures on political economy, security, development, and Asia. He has consulted for the World Bank, was Assistant Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme in East Timor, and Advisor to Cambodia's first private equity fund Leopard Capital.

A TED Fellow, Fulbright Specialist, Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum, he sits on the board of the Nathan Cummings Foundation, Refugees International, Partners for Development, International Public Management Network, the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, the Southeast Asia Development Program, and the Center for Khmer Studies. He is the author of *Aid Dependence in Cambodia: How Foreign Assistance Undermines Democracy* (Columbia University Press, 2013) and co-author of *The Hungry Dragon: How China's Resources Quest is Reshaping the World* (Routledge, 2013). He wrote and narrated the award-winning documentary film "The End/Beginning: Cambodia" (2011) based on his 2009 TED Talk: "Escaping the Khmer Rouge" and has appeared in four other documentaries.

A graduate of Princeton and Berkeley, he moved to the United States from France as a Cambodian refugee at the age of 10.

## FEATURED ARTISTS

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### BAO PHI



Bao Phi will be reading from his second collection of poems, *Thousand Star Hotel*, published July 5, 2017, by Coffee House Press. Phi is a two-time Minnesota Grand Slam champion and a National Poetry Slam finalist, who has appeared on HBO Presents Russell Simmons Def Poetry and was featured in the live performances and taping of the blockbuster diasporic Vietnamese variety show Paris By Night 114: Tôi Là Người Việt Nam. His poems and essays are widely published in numerous publications including *Screaming Monkeys*, *Spoken Word Revolution Redux*, and *Best American Poetry* (2006). He has performed in venues and schools across the country, from the Nuyorican Poets Café to the University of California, Berkeley.

His first collection of poetry, *Sông / Sing* (2011), is taught in classrooms across the United States and enjoyed rave reviews. including the *New York Times*, which stated "In this song of his very American self, every poem Mr. Phi writes rhymes with the truth." In 2012, the *Star Tribune*'s inaugural Best of Minnesota issue named Bao Phi as Best Spoken Word Artist.

Currently he continues to perform across the country, remains active as an Asian American community organizer, and is the Program Director of the Loft, where he manages various programs serving writers as well as creates and operates programs for artists and audiences of color. His first children's book, *A Different Pond*, illustrated by Thi Bui, will be published by Capstone Press in August of 2017.

## FEATURED ARTISTS

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### PEUO TUY



Peuo Tuy is a spoken word poet, writer, motivational speaker, and workshop leader. Her poetry collection, *Khmer Girl*, is inspired by the traumas of her life, including escaping the killing fields of her native Cambodia and enduring the inequities of life as an immigrant in the United States.

Peuo's spoken word performances have been featured in video projects, including "Futuroographies: Cambodia-USA-France," a multi-media exhibition traveling to Cambodia and France in 2016. She was one of the original members of Urbintel's HerStory cast, whose performances were filmed and performed live at East Coast venues from Massachusetts to North Carolina. She has appeared at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Bowery Poetry Club, Harlem Book Fair, and the New York Foundation for the Arts as well as various junior high schools and high schools. For people of all ages, she conducts writing and self-empowerment workshops that focus on peace, compassion, and overcoming adversity in difficult times.

On behalf of the Asian community, Peuo also has worked as a community organizer for CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities/Mekong NYC in New York and for the School of Unity and Liberation (SOUL) in California, where she helped Southeast Asians and other immigrants gain equal rights in the public welfare system. She is one of the founding members of the new Cambodian American Literary Arts Association (CALAA).

## FEATURED ARTISTS

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### BRYAN THAO WORRA



Bryan Thao Worra is the president of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry Association, a 40-year old international literary organization celebrating the poetry of the imaginative and the fantastic. A Lao American writer, he holds over 20 awards for his writing and community leadership including an NEA Fellowship in Literature, and was a Cultural Olympian representing Laos during the 2012 London Summer Games. In 2009 he received an Asian Pacific American Leadership Award from the governor's Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans.

He also holds a 2011 Youth Media Innovation Award from the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center and won the 2014 Elgin Award for Book of the Year from the Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry Association. He has presented at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Loft Literary Center, Intermedia Arts, Kearny Street Workshop, the Institute for Contemporary Art, among many others, and recently as a Visiting Artist with University of Merced Center for the Humanities. He is the first Lao writer to be professional member of the Horror Writers Association and trained several years with Asian Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy on social justice during their National Gender Equity Campaign.

One of the co-founders of the National Lao American Writers Summit, he is the author of 6 books, . In his 26 years as an artist, this is his very first presentation in Massachusetts. This year also marks the 10th anniversary of his first full-length book of poetry, *On The Other Side Of The Eye*. You can visit his website at: <http://thaoworra.blogspot.com>.

## FEATURED ARTISTS

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### FLYING ORB PRODUCTIONS

[www.flyingorb.com](http://www.flyingorb.com)



In 1969, President Nixon and Henry Kissinger embarked on a secret bombing campaign in Cambodia and Laos. In the process of trying to drive out the Viet Cong, they killed thousands of civilians and ultimately destabilized Cambodia, opening the door for the Khmer Rouge takeover. Many of Flying Orb's films and plays performed by Southeast Asian / Americans are about the residual effects of those secret bombing missions. Resident Alien, a new Flying Orb production, brings us full circle with Cambodian / Americans being uprooted from their families and deported back to Cambodia.

Flying Orb Productions was founded in 2005 by James Higgins and two principal dancers from the Angkor Dance Troupe, Monica Veth and Sophy Leng. Based in Lowell, Massachusetts, home to the 2nd largest Cambodian/American community in the country, Flying Orb's films and theater work deal with the legacy of America's war in Southeast Asia. From the beginning our motto has been "out of the darkness, into the light."

## FEATURED ARTISTS

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### TEADA PRODUCTIONS

[www.teada.org](http://www.teada.org)



TeAda Productions is a nomadic theater of color rooted in the stories of immigrants and refugees. We are committed to healing and honoring the lives of the displaced, exploited and overlooked. Our artistic process starts and ends with conscious listening, community building, and creative courage. Through theater workshops and performances, TeAda offers acts of service that are transformative and impactful. TeAda co-hosted the 3rd & 5th National Asian American Theater Festival in L.A. and the 2016 CAATA/CONFEST at OSF. TeAda has been working with refugee communities for over a decade through "Refugee Nation," the 1st nationally touring play about the Laotian American Experience.

Thanks in large part to the support of Legacies of War and Phitsamay Uy, Refugee Nation premiered over a decade ago at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center. Co-creators Leilani and Ova are excited to be returning to MA to share the performance with the community in Lowell.

## FEATURED ARTISTS

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# ANGKOR DANCE TROUPE

[www.angkordance.org](http://www.angkordance.org)



Angkor Dance Troupe was founded in 1986 by Mr. Tim Chan Thou, Angkor's Program Director, together with a small group of dancers who learned Cambodian dance in the refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border. The organization has two driving objectives: 1) to provide positive cultural, recreational, and educational opportunities for inner-city youth and; and 2) to preserve, educate and innovate Cambodian performing arts. These combine to offer Cambodian youth in Lowell a positive outlet to learn, exercise, and express themselves in a non-violent, community-building environment.

As the heart of the Cambodian Community, the Angkor Dance Troupe is nationally recognized as one of the most accomplished and experienced U.S.-based Cambodian traditional arts organizations. Angkor Dance Troupe has performed at the White House, Boston's First Night, Philadelphia's All-America City Competition, and the Massachusetts State House.

Just in the last year, Angkor Dance Troupe educated 200 students in Cambodian folk and classical dance, performed over 40 shows across the Northeast, and engaged over 20,000 people across the Northeast.

# THURSDAY, JULY 27

**7:00 AM – 8:45 AM**  
**[McGauvran Dining]**

## **Breakfast**

McGauvran Dining is on the 1st floor of McGauvran Center (71 Wilder St)

**7:30 AM – 6:00 PM**  
**[O'Leary Lobby]**

## **Registration Desk Open**

**8:45 AM – 9:00 AM**  
**[O'Leary 222]**

## **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

The entrance to O'Leary 222 is located on the 2nd floor bridge between O'Leary & McGauvran

Phitsamay S. Uy, UMass Lowell

Julie Chen, Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation, UMass Lowell

Edward J. Kennedy, Mayor of Lowell

Rady Mom, Massachusetts House of Representatives, 18th Middlesex District

**9:00 AM – 10:30 AM**  
**[O'Leary 222]**

## **Plenary 1: Bridging Policy & Research**

Chair: Phitsamay S. Uy, UMass Lowell

Katrina Dizon Mariategue, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center

Channapha Khamvongsa, Legacies of War

Khanh T. Dinh, UMass Lowell

# THURSDAY, JULY 27

## Concurrent Session A

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM  
[McGauvran 312]

### A1: Intersectionality: A Multiple Consciousness Framework Towards Building Community and Positive Change

Moderator: Yi-Chun Tricia Lin, Southern Connecticut State University

Nancy Xiong, George Mason University

Khoi Nguyen, George Mason University

Mai H. Vang, UMass Boston

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM  
[O'Leary 478]

### A2: The Cultural Production of Transnational Southeast Asian Space

Chair: Timothy K. August, SUNY, Stony Brook

Fiona Ngô, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, "The Perfectible Refugee"

Timothy K. August, SUNY, Stony Brook, "Unearthing 'Asian America' Through Refugee Space"

Michele Janette, Kansas State University, "Lily Hoang's A Bestiary as Textual Swarm"

S. Steve Arounsack, California State University, Stanislaus, "Cultural Fulcrum: the Resurgence of Modern Lao Music and Film"

Discussant: Mariam B. Lam, University of California Riverside

# THURSDAY, JULY 27

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM  
[McGauvran 313]

### A3: Lowell's Cambodian American Communities

Chair: George Chigas, UMass Lowell

George Chigas, UMass Lowell, "Why Lowell? A History of Lowell's Cambodian American Community"

James Ostis, Lowell Heritage Partnership, "Angkor Dance Troupe and Lowell's Creative Economy"

Pere Pen, UMass Lowell, "Trairatanaram Temple"

Molyka Tieng, Lowell Community Health Center, "The History of Metta Health Care"

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM  
[O'Leary 313]

### A4: Gimme That: Searching for Vietnamese American Femininity Through Voguing (performance & paper)

Loan Hoang, University of California, Los Angeles

Uyen Hoang, University of California, Los Angeles

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM  
[O'Leary 517]

### A5: Paying it Forward: Connecting Japanese American Internees & Southeast Asian Students through the NSRC Fund

Chair: Phitsamay S. Uy, UMass Lowell

Paul Watanabe, UMass Boston

Yutaka Kobayashi, Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund

Rattana Yeang, Oakland School District

# THURSDAY, JULY 27

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM A6 (FILM SHOWCASE): 3 Short Films  
[O'Leary 222] Moderator: S. Steve Arounsack, CSU Stanislaus

10:45 – 11:10 a.m. **Burmese Refugee**

Description: San Aung, a refugee from Burma, struggles to establish a new life in America after spending years in a Southeast Asian Refugee camp.

11:10 – 11:40 a.m. **Phetmixay Means Fighter**

Rita Phetmixay, UCLA  
Ethnocommunications Center

Description: *Phetmixay Means Fighter* is a short documentary film that seeks to explore Lao American refugee resiliency narratives through the life of the filmmaker's father, Phoutone Phetmixay.

11:40am-12:00pm **Immigrant Stories**

Saengmany Ratsabout, UMinnesotan  
Immigration History Research Center

Description: Immigrant Stories is a research and archiving project run by the Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) at the University of Minnesota. Immigrant Stories helps immigrants, refugees, and their family members create digital stories: brief videos with images, text, and audio about a personal experience.

# THURSDAY, JULY 27

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM [McGauvran Dining]

## Lunch

## Concurrent Session B

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM [O'Leary 478]

**B1: The Minnesota 8: Organizing Against Deportation**

Chair: Vichet Chhuon, University of Minnesota

Jenny Srey, #ReleaseMN8

Ched Nin, #ReleaseMN8

Montha Chum, #ReleaseMN8

Socheat Chum, #ReleaseMN8

Katrina Dizon Mariategue, SEARAC

Vichet Chhuon, University of Minnesota

<https://releasemn8.tumblr.com/>

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM [O'Leary 517]

**B2: Diasporic Southeast Asians in Law, Media, and the Streets**

Chair: Mehmed Ali, UMass Lowell

Pauline Nguyen, University of California, Irvine, “Nguyen Thi Ve, The First Female Judge of Vietnam: How Education, War, and Law Shaped Her Life”

Jonathan David Agena, University of California, Irvine, “Asian American Community and Diversity Dilemmas in Superhero Film/Television”

Mehmed Ali, UMass Lowell, “Kmeng in the ‘Hood - An Oral History of Cambodian Gangs in Lowell, Massachusetts”

# THURSDAY, JULY 27

**1:30 PM-3:00 PM    B3: Contemporary Vietnamese American Cultural Production**  
[McGauvran 312]

Chairs: Nina Ha, Bowling Green State University

Nina Ha, Bowling Green State University,  
“Exploring the Role of Vietnamese American  
Female Protagonists in Higher Education  
through Literature”

Catherine H. Nguyen, University of California, Los  
Angles, “The Dis(-)ease of Otherness: Bitter in  
the Mouth and Discourses of Alterity”

Kim Tran, University of California, Los Angeles,  
“Hát Bội Classical Opera Performance as  
Technology of Memory in the Vietnamese

**1:30 PM – 3:00 PM    B4: WORKSHOP: Invisible Voices & Narratives:  
The Case of Little Laos on the Prairie and Diaspora  
Blogging**

Chanida Phaengdara Potter, The SEAD Project  
(Southeast Asian Diaspora)

**Workshop Description:** At the intersection of Southeast Asian American diaspora experiences and social justice, taking ownership of our stories matter even more in this current era. Creative storytelling has long been used as an empowering art form in acknowledging our experiences, sharing forgotten histories, driving community organizing and strengthening a previously limited and almost non-existent narrative. In this interactive multimedia workshop, using case studies from Little Laos on the Prairie and other related blogs, participants will tap into their own experiences and memories as writing prompts, learn the nuts and bolts of compelling storytelling, how to build a readership base through social media amplification, know the do's and don'ts in the blogosphere and end with a group Q&A. Participants will leave the workshop equipped with a useful mini-storytelling toolkit and a blog post-ready story to share.

# THURSDAY, JULY 27

**1:30 PM – 3:00 PM    B5: SEA Barriers & Access to Health Care**  
[McGauvran 313]

Chair: Ivy K. Ho, UMass Lowell

Molyka Tieng, Lowell Community Health Center, “Addressing Barriers to Health Care”

Niem Nay-Kret, Lowell Community Health Center, “Understanding Traditional Health Practices vs. Western Practices”

Ivy K. Ho, UMass Lowell, “Asian American Health Research Hub”

**1:30 PM – 3:00 PM    B6 (FILM SHOWCASE):  
[O’Leary 222]**

## ***Vientiane in Love***

Description: *Vientiane in Love* is the first omnibus Lao film delving into different aspects of love as shown through five separate stories.

## **Concurrent Session C**

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**3:15 PM – 4:45 PM    C1: WORKSHOP: Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM): Organizing Against Deportation and For Police Accountability**  
[O’Leary 478]

Sarath Suong, PrYSM

PrYSM Youth Organizers

**Workshop Description:** This workshop will discuss Providence Youth Student Movement’s Southeast Asian youth leaders’ policy and community organizing work against police violence in Rhode Island as part of our larger vision for abolition.

# THURSDAY, JULY 27

**3:15 PM – 4:45 PM C2: U-Story of Asian Pacific Century**  
[O'Leary 517] Chair: Meiling Wu, California State University East Bay

Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy, UMass Lowell

Annie Hoang, California State University East Bay

Cindy Lieu, California State University East Bay

Danvy Le , California State University East Bay

My Lan Huynh, California State University East Bay

**3:15 PM – 4:45 PM C3: Vietnamese Diasporas: Activism & Entrepreneurship**  
[McGauvran 312] Chair: Jana Lipman, Tulane University

Jana Lipman, Tulane University, “Vietnamese Diasporic Activism: Hong Kong, Humanitarianism and Human Rights, 1989-1997

Tony Tran, University of Wisconsin-Madison, “Diversifying Diasporas: Exploring Vietnamese Canadian Histories in Vancouver”

Lena Tran, Evergreen Valley College, “National Cultural and Leadership Practices: Vietnamese-American Entrepreneurs Perspectives

# THURSDAY, JULY 27

**3:15 PM – 4:45 PM C4: New Refugee Communities**  
[McGauvran 313] Chair: Robert Forrant, UMass Lowell

Kathryn Stam, SUNY Polytechnic, “Refugees Starting Over in Utica, NY”

Mitra Das, UMass Lowell, “Down the Memory Lane: The New Refugees in Lowell”

James Aung, SayDaNar Community Development Center, “Challenges that Refugees Face to Become Self-Sufficient”

**3:15 PM – 4:45 PM C5: Bhutanese Refugees and the Bhutanese American Community**  
[O'Leary 500M]

Suraj Budathoki, International Campaign for Human Rights in Bhutan, “Pre-resettlement: Camp Conditions, the Causes of Eviction, and the Future of Remaining Refugees in Camps in Nepal”

Tilak Niroula, Bhutanese Community of New Hampshire, “Post-resettlement: Mental Health, Success Stories, and the Future of Bhutanese Diaspora”

**3:15 PM – 4:45 PM C6 (FILM SHOWCASE)**  
[O'Leary 222]

***Lost Child: Sayon's Journey***

Sopheap Theam, Filmmaker

Janet Gardner, Gardner Documentary Group

# THURSDAY, JULY 27

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM  
[O'Leary Lobby]

## Tour: CMAA

Please join us for a visit to the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association

Meet in O'Leary Lobby for ride share

CMAA Address: 465 School Street, Lowell,  
MA

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
[O'Leary Mezzanine]

## Mentoring / Networking Reception

Please join us for a reception and networking reception to meet your fellow conference attendees. Light refreshments served.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
[McGauvran Dining]

## Dinner

Description: *Lost Child: Sayon's Journey* explores the lasting journey of the Cambodian Genocide that claimed an estimated 1.7 million people through the eyes of a former Khmer Rouge child soldier.

7:30 PM  
[Durgin Concert Hall]

## Featured Performance

### Decade:

A Flying Orb Retrospective  
+

### Resident Alien

(film & performance art)

### Flying Orb Productions

In 1969, President Nixon and Henry Kissinger embarked on a secret bombing campaign in Cambodia and Laos. In the process of trying to drive out the Viet Cong, they killed thousands of civilians and ultimately destabilized Cambodia, opening the door for the Khmer Rouge takeover. Many of Flying Orb's films and plays performed by Southeast Asian / Americans are about the residual effects of those secret bombing missions. Resident Alien, a new Flying Orb production, brings us full circle with Cambodian / Americans being uprooted from their families and deported back to Cambodia.

\*Suggested donation: \$10. Tickets included with conference registration.

Address: Durgin Concert Hall (35 Wilder Street, Lowell, MA)

# FRIDAY, JULY 28

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM  
[McGauvran Dining]

## Breakfast

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
[O'Leary Lobby]

## Registration Desk Open

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM  
[McGauvran 313]

## Concurrent Session D

**D1: Reconsidering Southeast Asian Refugees and Immigrants in the MII City**

Lan Pho, UMass Lowell

Sylvia Cowan, Lesley University

Jeffrey Gerson, UMass Lowell

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM  
[O'Leary 517]

**D2: SEA Education: Identities, Theories, & Opportunities**

Chair: Rex Yin, Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia

Xiaoxia A. Newton, UMass Lowell, "Theory Into Practice: Empowerment Evaluation of a Full Service Community School Initiative at an Alternative High School Serving Primarily Diverse Students"

Stacey J. Lee, Linda Marie Pheng, Choua Xiong, & Mai Neng Vang, "Why do y'all like Black music if you don't like Black people?": Building Southeast and Black Solidarity" (educators & youth focused)

Porntip Israsena Twishime, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, "Belonging, the Body and Dis/orientation: Challenges of a Heritage-Seeker"

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM  
[McGauvran 312]

**D3: Southeast Asian Art & Politics**  
Chair: Bryan Thao Worra

Bryan Thao Worra, Science Fiction & Poetry Association, "SEA Speculative Art & Social Justice"

Catzie Vilayphonh, Lao American Writers Summit, "Art as Activism"

Tooch Van, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, "A Journey of an Immigrant from Phnom Penh to Lowell"

Vichet Chum, "Cambodian American Stories in the Theatre"

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM  
[O'Leary 478]

**D4: Collecting and Archiving Public Histories: The Politics of Institutionalizing and Sustaining Memories**

Chair: Cathy Schlund-Vials, University of Connecticut

Thuy Vo Dang, Southeast Asian Archive, University of California, Irvine Libraries

Tram Le, University of California, Irvine

Linda Trinh Vo, University of California, Irvine

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM  
[O'Leary 485]

**D5: A Race Against Time: A Journey to Cambodia to Capture the Last Movements of Master Dancers**

Chummeng Soun, Angkor Dance Group, Flying Orb Productions, UMass Lowell

Phousita Huy, Angkor Dance Troupe

# FRIDAY, JULY 28

# FRIDAY, JULY 28

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM D6: Entrepreneurship, Small Businesses & Community Engagement  
[O'Leary 500M]

Enterprise Bank

Joey Banh, EforAll

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM D7 (FILM SHOWCASE)  
[O'Leary 222]

## ***Better Places: The Hmong of Rhode Island a Generation Later***

Producer: Peter O'Neill, Producer

Description: This sequel to *The Best Place to Live* (1981) filmed four of the original families and updated their situations through intimate portraits of their lives and families.

10:45 AM – 12:30 PM  
[O'Leary 222]

## **Plenary 2: Southeast Asians in New England**

Moderator: Ivy K. Ho, UMass Lowell

Hai Pho, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, UMass Lowell

Cathy Schlund-Vials, Professor of English and Director Asian & Asian American Studies, UConn

Eric Tang, Assistant Professor African & African Diasporas Studies & Asian American Studies, UTexas-Austin

Richard Chu, Five-College Associate Professor of History, UMass Amherst

Phitsamay Uy, Assistant Professor of Education, UMass Lowell

Sarath Suong, Executive Director, PrYSM

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM  
[McGauvran Dining]

## **Lunch**

## **Concurrent Session E**

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM  
[McGauvran 313]

### **E1: Rising SEAS: Challenges and Strategies for Growth as Southeast Asian Writers**

Chair: Sokunthary Svay

Sokunthary Svay, Khmer writer (poetry and nonfiction) and musician

Peou Tuy, Cambodian American Literary Arts Association

# FRIDAY, JULY 28

# FRIDAY, JULY 28

- Bunkuong Tuon, Union College  
Bryan Thao Worra, Science Fiction Poetry Association  
Catzie Vilayphonh, Lao American Writer Summit
- 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM [O'Leary 517]** **E2: Improving Access, Retention, and Graduation of Southeast Asian American College Students through AANAPISI Funded Programs and Services**  
Chair: Patricia A. Neilson, University of Massachusetts Boston  
Virak Uy, Middlesex Community College  
Maria Kathleen Puente, Bunker Hill Community College  
Patricia A. Neilson, University of Massachusetts Boston
- 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM [McGauvran 312]** **E3: Theories of Southeast Asian/American Identities**  
Chair: Rex Yin, Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia  
Yvonne Y. Kwan, Dartmouth College, “Logic and Poetics of Queer Diaspora: Trauma and the Optics of Affect”  
Rachelle Jereza, Binghamton University, “Constructing Filipino Identity: A Narrative Analysis”  
Carolyn Wong, University of Massachusetts Boston, “Reconstructing Hmong Identity Narratives of Freedom”

# FRIDAY, JULY 28

- 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM [O'Leary 500M]** **E4: Hmong American Studies**  
Chair: Soua Xiong, San Diego State University & Claremont Graduate University  
Soua Xiong, San Diego State University & Claremont Graduate University, “Hmong American Studies in Education: A Review of two decades of scholarship in the Hmong Studies Journal, 1996-2016”  
Chia Xong & Kau Vue, “An Analysis of Studies on Hmong Political Participation”
- 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM [O'Leary 478]** **E5 (FILM SHOWCASE)**  
***Bridging the Gap of Dreams***  
Description: *Bridging The Gap Of Dreams* captures Lao Americans who overcame their odds and barriers. An intimate personal accomplishment for their personal struggles and challenges in order to live out and pursue their successful American dreams.
- 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM [O'Leary 222]** **E6 (SPECIAL COMMUNITY SELECTION FILM)**  
***The End/Beginning: Cambodia***  
Writer: Sophal Ear, Occidental College  
Description: Sophal Ear’s compelling story of his family’s harrowing escape from Cambodia under the rule of the Khmer Rouge.

# FRIDAY, JULY 28

3:15-4:45 PM  
[O'Leary 222]

## Featured Speaker

### From Cambodian Refugee to Elected Town Councilmember With A Few Stops in Between: An Unexpected Journey

Sophal Ear, Occidental College & Crescenta Valley Town Council Member

3:15-4:45 PM  
[Durgin Concert Hall]

## Featured Performance

### Refugee Nation

*TeAda Productions*

A mother lives alone in the darkness. A father struggles to forget a lost war. A son battles in the streets of urban America. A daughter searches for answers in her community. Refugee Nation is about a young generation struggling to understand their history and the silence of an elder generation still healing from the traumas of war. More than just a telling of Laotian American history, this three-person performance eloquently touches upon issues relating to the refugee experience, assimilation, generation gap, and mental health using drama, film, music, and audience interaction, and personalizes these issues through a genuine Laotian American perspective. The result is a performance that not only brings to light the hidden stories of Laotian Americans around the U.S., but one that is able to unite people from all types of backgrounds, ethnicities, and histories by relaying the ideas of change, loss, struggle, healing, and the unrelenting strength of the human spirit.

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
[O'Leary Lobby]

## Tour

Please join us for a brief tour through Cambodia Town

Meet in O'Leary Lobby to board bus for tour & banquet

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
[Pailin City]

## Banquet

Emcee: Michael Tith, UMass Lowell

Remarks by Dr. **Hai B. Pho**, UMass Lowell Professor Emeritus & Founding Board Member & Program Coordinator for the Indochinese Refugee Foundation

Performance by **Angkor Dance Troupe**

Location: Pailin City, 6 Branch Street, Lowell, MA

\*Tickets: adult \$20/youth \$10. Banquet tickets included with conference registration.

This event is made possible by the generous support of Enterprise Bank.

8:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
[Pailin City]

## Poetry Reading

Bao Phi, author of *Thousand Star Hotel* and *Sông I Sing*

Peou Tuy, author of *Khmer Girl*

Bryan Thao Worra, author of *On the Other Side of the Eye*

# FRIDAY, JULY 28

# SATURDAY, JULY 29

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM  
[McGauvran Dining]

## Breakfast

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
[O'Leary 140]

## Community Workshops

### Immigrant Stories: Community Engagement through Digital Storytelling

This workshop - led by Saengmany Ratsabout, Program Coordinator of the UMinnesotan Immigration History Research Center - will introduce new tools for engaging immigrant and refugee individuals and communities.

Participants will learn about the IHRC's Immigrant Stories digital storytelling and archiving project. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Immigrant Stories helps recent immigrants and refugees create digital stories: brief videos with images, text, and audio about a personal experience. The IHRC shares and preserves these digital stories for future generations through the IHRC Archives, the Minnesota Digital Library, and the Digital Public Library of America. There are more than 250 digital stories in the Immigrant Stories Collection. Students, educators, and community members can use the just-launched story-making website: [immigrantstories.umn.edu](http://immigrantstories.umn.edu) and related curricula to make and share their own stories. Teachers can also access new "Learning about Immigration" classroom curriculum that uses the IHRC's Immigrant Stories to engage students (grades 8-Adult) in defining immigration, understanding the U.S. immigration system, exploring the experiences of refugees, and examining how immigrants and their children navigate culture and identity.

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
[Middlesex Community College]

### Where We Come From: Writing Workshop

Presented by the Cambodian American Literary Arts Association (CALAA)

Writing workshops will explore the roles of our cultural heritage, whether Khmer/Cambodian or other, and its relation to personal identity. Workshops will vary by instructor, using different writing exercises.

Location: Middlesex Community College, 50 Kearney Square, Federal Building Assembly Room, Lowell, MA 01852

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
[O'Leary 222]

### Know Your Rights: Organizing Against Deportation

As the Trump Administration intensifies its attacks on immigrants and refugees, impacted individuals and their families are fighting back. Join this gathering of community members, allies, and advocates who are working to dismantle this Administration's mass deportation machine through community organizing, legal strategy and policy advocacy. Attorneys and policy experts will provide a Know Your Rights Training to support individuals in fear of deportation, a brief policy and political analysis of what's at stake for Southeast Asian Americans across the country, as well as other resources. Impacted individuals and community members and those organizing against deportation are encouraged to attend, participate, and engage in a strategy discussion to address the issues of detention and deportation.

Workshop will be led by Katrina Dizon Mariategue, Immigration Policy Manager, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC), and Eileen Morrison, a Boston attorney.

# SATURDAY, JULY 29

# SATURDAY, JULY 29

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
[O'Leary 478]

## Community Engagement: Telling & Collecting Stories

This workshop will include how to address concerns when reaching into a community with a history of trauma. The workshop will cover how to conduct interviews, how to appropriately market interview projects to the community, and how to get involved/partner with institutions for such projects. Moving forward, the urgency in collecting biographical stories and interviews of the elders in the communities will become more and more urgent. This workshop would like to highlight less intimidating parts of the process to encourage more people, of all ages, to answer the call to collect and culturally preserve as many identities as we can.

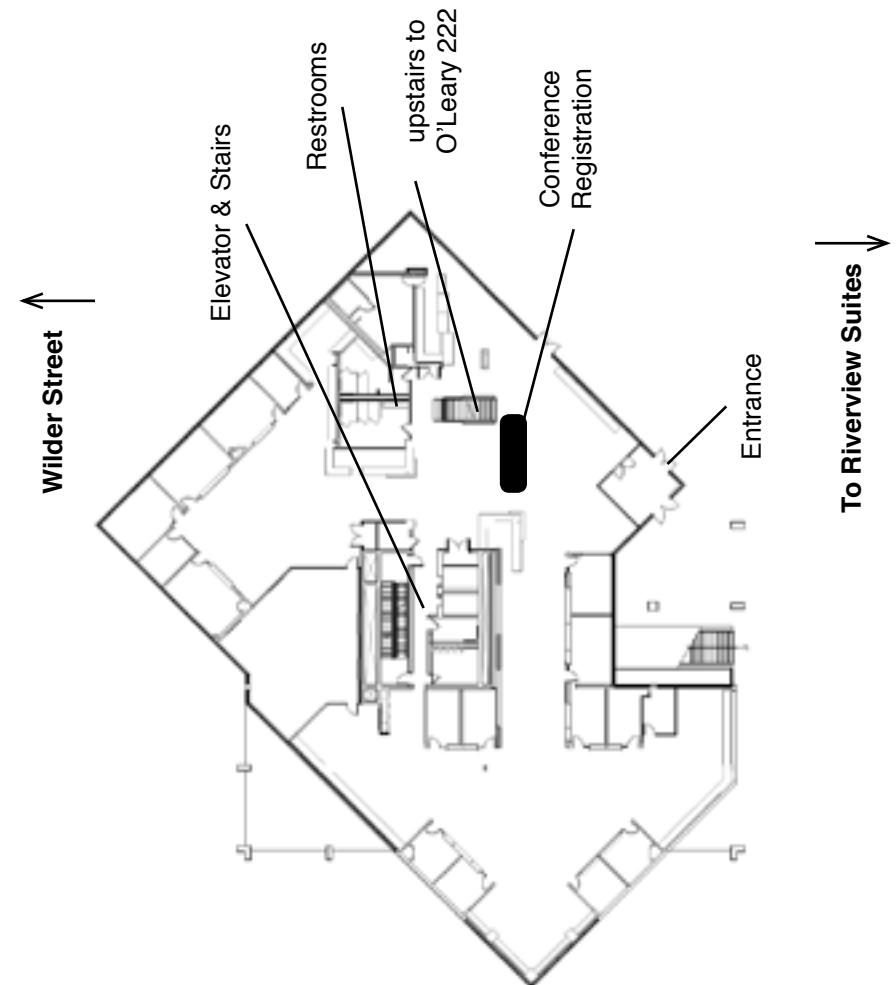
Chrisna Khuon, UMass Lowell, will be lead this workshop on engaging the community with projects that involve interviews with the Southeast Asian community, particularly the Cambodian community that has had a history of war, genocide, and cultural loss. She has experience working with the Center for Asian American Studies and Southeast Asian Digital Archive at UMass Lowell.

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  
[McGauvran Dining]

## Lunch

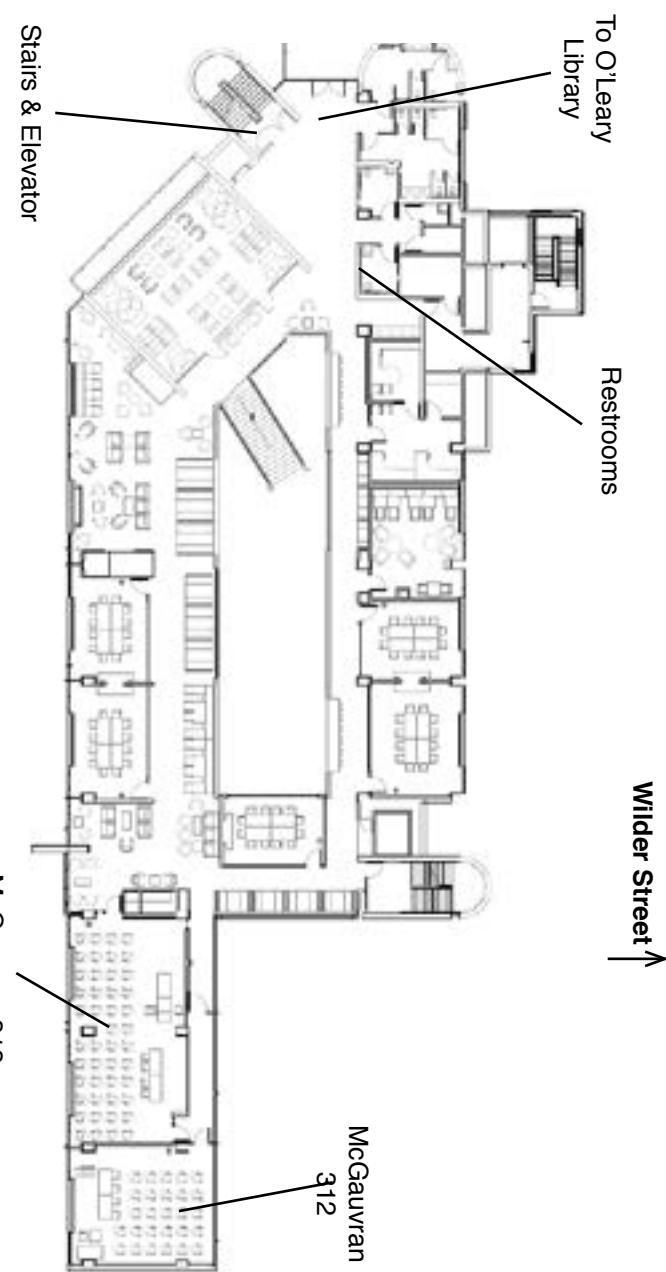
1:00 PM Closing Remarks

Maps - O'Leary Library 1st Floor



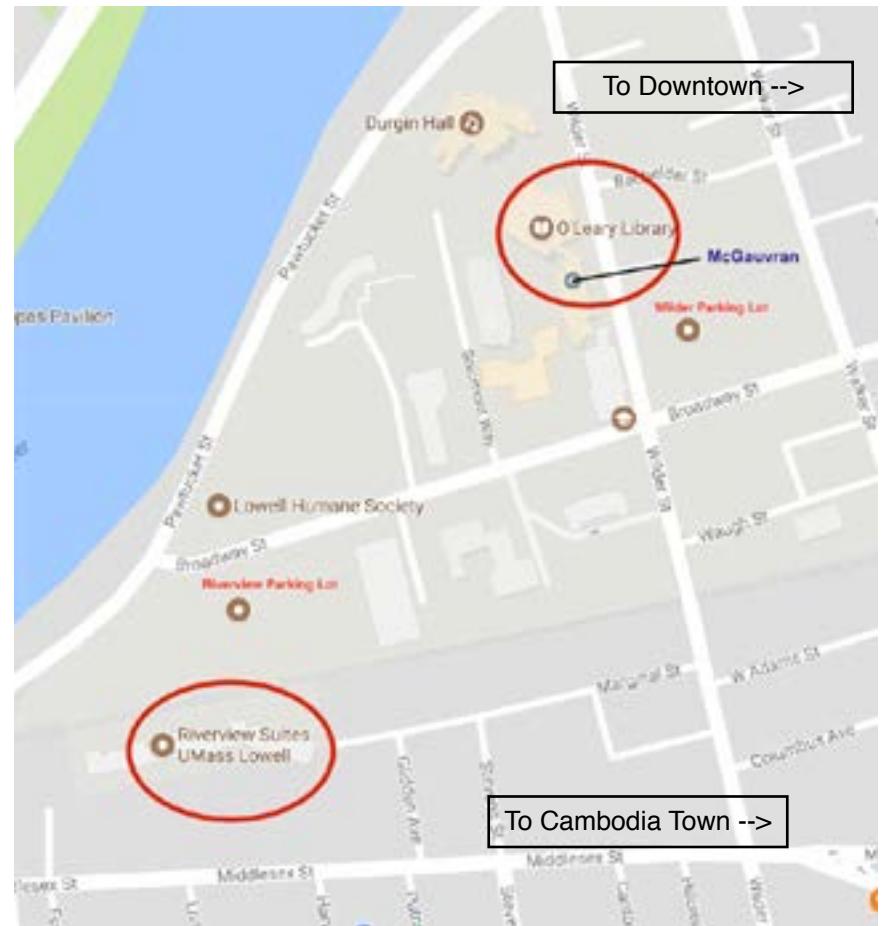
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### Maps - McGauvran 3rd Floor



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### UMASS LOWELL SOUTH CAMPUS MAP



The 2017 Southeast Asian American Studies Conference was made possible by the generous support of many cosponsors and partners.



Drs. Shin and M. Kim Oh  
The Indochinese Refugee Fund

University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center  
University of Minnesota Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
The National Association for the Education and Advancement of  
Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese Americans (NAFEA)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Angkor Dance Troupe  
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell  
Cambodian American Literary Arts Association (CALAA)  
Program for Asian American Student Advancement  
at Middlesex Community College  
SayDaNar Community Development Center  
University of Connecticut Asian & Asian American Studies Institute  
#ReleaseMN8



Nancy Donahue Endowed Professor in the Arts	Digital Media Program
College of Fine Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences	English Department
American Studies Program	History Department
Art and Design Department	Labor Education Program
Asian Studies Program	Labor Studies
Center for Community Research & En- gagement	Office of Community Relations
Center for Population Health	Peace & Conflict Studies Program
Center for Women & Work	Political Science Department
College of Education	Public Health Department
College of Health Sciences	Sociology Department
	University Professor Robert Forrant
	Mai Nguyen

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Lowell Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. This conference has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.



# **2017 Southeast Asian American Studies Conference Program Addenda**

## THURSDAY, JULY 27

### **10:45am-12:15pm Session A5: Paying It Forward: Connecting Japanese American Internees & Southeast Asian Students through the NSRCF Fund (O'Leary 517)**

Virak Uy, Middlesex Community College, will replace Rattana Yeang on the panel

Kennis Mor, UMass Lowell & NSRCF Scholarship recipient, will join the panel

## FRIDAY, JULY 28

### **9am-10:30am Session D6: Entrepreneurship, Small Business, & Community Engagement (O'Leary 500M)**

This session will be chaired by Michael Tith, UMass Lowell

### **9am-10:30am D7 (Film Showcase): Nuóc (Water/Homeland)\* will follow Better Places: The Hmong of Rhode Island a Generation Later**

A queer Vietnamese American teen attempts to piece together and understand their mom's experience as a Vietnam War refugee.

Director: Quyen Nguyen-Le

Time: 5 minutes

\* Community Special Selection Film

### **10:45am-12:30pm Plenary 2: Southeast Asians in New England (O'Leary 222)**

Welcome Remarks by Luis M. Falcón, Dean of the College of Fine Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences, UMass Lowell

### **3:15pm-4:45pm Featured Speaker: Sophal Ear, “From Cambodian Refugee to Elected Towncouncilmember with a Few Stops In Between: An Unexpected Journey” (O'Leary 222)**

This session will be chaired by Michael Tith, UMass Lowell

## Additional Conference Staff:

Sopheap La, Middlesex Community College

Peter Katamani, Middlesex Community College